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I, Alfred H. Muratori, certify that this paper was deposited with the United States Postal Service addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Amendment, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, first class, postage prepaid on 26 August 2004.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Wang, Phillip Hua-Kuan

Serial No. 10/045,207

Filed: October 22, 2001

For: **OPTICAL FIBER CONNECTING AND ALIGNING METHOD AND DEVICE**

Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: Eric Hug

RESPONSE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In respect of the Office Action mailed 26 May, 2003, kindly consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

Currently, claims 1-4 are pending.

The rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Green et al., is respectfully traversed. Both independent claims 1 and 4 require that at least two axis of rotation intersect at the center of the fiber's end surface. Green et al. does not show or teach this feature. There does not appear to be any discussion concerning the fiber or lens' end surface. The discussion concerning rotation about eccentric sleeves (see for example column 5, lines 57-67) seems to teach away from the present invention by describing translation that takes place as a function of rotation. This is precisely the condition the present invention avoids by placing the intersection of the two (or three) axes at the end surface such that no translation of the fiber end surface takes place, as the rotational alignment is made. This speeds the alignment process, as translational alignment does not need to be redone during the rotational alignment. In prior art methods, any rotational alignment about a point not on the center of the end surface of the fiber, results in a translational movement of the fiber's end surface during rotational alignment. No matter what algorithm is used in aligning the fiber, this will result in longer alignment times. In figure 3, the three axes are shown intersecting below (not on) what would appear to be the end of the fiber 100, although no discussion of the end of the fiber is made in the specification.

The rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jadrich, is respectfully traversed. Independent claim 1 requires that at least two axis of rotation intersect at the center of the fiber's end surface. Jadrich does not show or teach this feature. There is no discussion of the end surface of the fiber or lens, or that any of the axes of rotation intersect thereon. Figures 6 and 7 do not contain a feature that is identified as the fiber or lens, so it is unclear what the Examiner is referring to in these figures.